

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 HONG K 03839 01 OF 02 110353Z

12 R  
ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /011 W  
----- 086136

R 110015Z APR 75  
FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4540  
INFO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI  
USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 HONG KONG 3839

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: SREF, HK, CH, TW  
SUBJECT: ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS FROM THE PRC

REF: STATE 70714 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: THE FOLLOWING REPORTS INFORMATION OBTAINED FROM THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT (HKG) BEARING ON THE STATUS AND OREATMENT OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS FROM THE PRC AFTER THEY ARE REPATRIATED BY THE HKG TO CHINA. ACCORDING TO HKG ASSESSMENTS AND TO REPORTS AVAILABLE TO THE CONGEN, THERE IS NO EVIDENCE TO SUGGEST THAT THESE PEOPLE ARE HARSHLY PUNISHED UPON THEIR RETURN OO THE PRC. RESULTS OF INTER-VIEWS CONDUCTED BY THE HKG OF MORE THAN 500 ILLEGALS WHO HAVE BEEN RETURNED TO THE PRC SHOW THAT THEY DO NOT FEEL THE THREAT OF SEVERE PUNISHMENT OR LONG PRISON TERMS. IN VIEW OF VARIOUS QUERIES ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF TAIWAN ACCEPTING SUCH ILLEGALS, IT IS SIGNIFICATN THAT NOT ONE RETURNEE IN THESE INTERVIEWS INDICATED A DESIRE TO GO TO TAIWAN. END SUMMARY.

1. US CONGENOFF CONSULTATIONS WITH HONG KONG GOVERNMENT (HKG) ASSIYTANT POLAD DRACE-FANCIS ON RELEVANT POINTS OF REFTEL HAVE YIELDED FOLLOWING INFORMATION: ON QUESTION OF NUMBERS OF ILLEGALS AND LEGAL IMMIGRANTS FROM HK TO TAIWAN IN RECENT YEARS, ASSISTANT POLAD STATED HKG STATISTICS WERE NOT BROKEN DOWN SUFFICIENTLY TO YIELD SUCH DATA BUT HE PERSONALLY DOUBTED THAT NUMBER WOULD BE LARGE. HE CHARACTERIZED GRC OFFER OF LAST DECEMBER TO ACCEVT ILLEGALS  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 HONG K 03839 01 OF 02 110353Z

AS HAVING CLEAR EARMARKS OF AN ANTI-PRC GAMBIT. HE ADDED CONFIDEN-

TIALLY THAT HKG HAD DELIBERATELY REFRAINED FROM ANY RESPONSE OR PUBLIC REFERENCE TO TAIPEI' STATEMENT. OHIS WAS IN ACCORDANCE WITH UNPUBLICIZED BUT STRONGLY HELD HKG POLICY OF STRENUOUSLY AVOIDING ANY INVOLVEMENT IN KMT-PRC DISPUTES AND OF PREVENTING COLONY FROM BECOMING MANEUVERING GROUND FOR BOTH SIDES. ASKED IF LOCAL GRC OR PRO-KMT ELEMENTS HAD MADE ANY APPROACH TO HKG RE ILLEGALS SINCE DECEMBER STATEMENTS, DRACE-FRANCIS SAID THERE HAD BEEN NO MOVES OF ANY KIND AND MATTER SEEMS DORMANT.

2. RE JANUARY 15 DAILY TELEGRAPH STORY, ASSISTANT POLAD SAID THAT BECAUSE OF UK PARLIAMENTARY INTEREST IN ARTICLE, LONDON HAD ASKED UK EMBASSY IN PEKING TO EVALUATE VALIDITY OF ARTICLE. JUST RECEIVED UK EMBASSY REPORT HAD ESTABLISHED THAT ARTICLE WAS INACCURATE AND MISLEADING ON MAIN POINTS. UK EMBASSY HAD TRACED BASIC STORY TO AUSTRALIAN JOURNALIST WHO LAST NOVEMBER SAW CANTON INCIDENT ALLEGEDLY INVOLVING GROUP WEARING "WE TRIED TO RUN AWAY. PLACARDS. JOURNALIST, WHO IS NOT PARTICULARLY KNOWN FOR ACCURATE REPORTING HIMSELF, THEN PASSED INFO ALONG TO OTHER COLLEAGUES IN PEKING, INCLUDING DAILY TELEGRAPH CORRESPONDENT. AS RESULT, ASIC REPORT BECAME FURTHER EMBELLISHED AND EXAGGERATED WITH A MIX OF INCIDENTS THAT MAY NOT HAVE INVOLVED ESCAPEES AT ALL.

3. ARTICLE'S MAIN DISTORTION WAS CONTENTION THAT THOSE CHASTISED IN CANTON INCIDENT WERE RETURNEES REPATRIATED TO PRC BY HK POLICE. UK EMBASSY HAS DETERMINED THAT CANTON INCIDENT WITNESSED BY AUSTRALIAN JOURNALIST ACTUALLY OCCURRED IN NOVEMBER, NOT JANUARY. SINCE HKG POLICY OF REPATRIATING APPREHENDED ILLEGALS DID NOT GO INTO EFFECT UNTIL NOVEMBER 30, THE DISCREPANCY IS OBVIOUS. ADDITIONALLY ARTICLE'S DESCRIPTION OF "TOUGH GOOKING YOUTHS" POINTING AT "THE MEN IN THE TRUCK" WITH BOWED HEADS AND LIMP HANDS IS AT VARIANCE WITH FACT THAT OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF REPATRIATED ILLEGALS ARE YOUTH RATHER THAN ADULTS. IN SUM, UK EMBASSY AND HKG REJECT ARTICLE AS ACCURATE INDICATOR OF HOW REPATRIATED ILLEGALS ARE BEING TREATED BY PRC.

4. IN THIS CONNECTION, DRACE-FRANCIS SAID THERE WAS NO EVIDENCE TO SUGGEST RETURNEES FROM HK FACE SEVERE PUNISHMENT BY PRC AUTHORITIES. HE POINTED OUT WELL DOCUMENTED FACT THAT MANY ILLEGALS ARRIVING HK RECENT YEARS HAD

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 HONG K 03839 01 OF 02 110353Z

INDIVIDUAL BACKGROUNDS OF PREVIOUS ESCAPE ATTEMPTS RESULTING IN PRC ARREST AND DETENTION. ACCORDING TO THEIR ACCOUNTS, MULTIPLE OCCASION OFFENDERS GENERALLY RECEIVE PROGRESSIVELY STIFFER DISCIPLINARY TREATMENT EACH TIME, BUO REPORTS OF SEVERE PUNISHMENT, SUCH AS BEATINGS, WERE VERY RARE. PUNISHMENT USUALLY CONSISTED OF VARIOUS TYPES OF SOCIAL PRESSURES (SUCH AS GROUP CRITICISM AND OSTRACISM, SELF-CONFESSIONS OF WRONG DOING, ETC.), DENIAL OF PRIVILEGES AND

LABOR REFORM. HKD HAS NO INFORMATION TO INDICATE GENERAL PATTERN HAS BEEN CHANGED. IN FACT, SINCE NOVEMBER 30 INITIATION OF REPATRIATION POLICY, HKG OFFICIAL WAS SPECIFICALLY TOLD BY PRC REPS THAT RETURNEES WERE NOT BEING SEVERELY PUNISHED BUT MERELY SENT BACK TO COMMUNES FOR "REEDUCATION". (HK 1365).

5. ASSISTANT POLAD ADDED THAT HKG SINCE NOVEMBER 30 HAS APPREHENDED AND RETURNED TO PRC OVER 500 ILLEGALS, EACH OF WHOM WAS INTERVIEWED AND PROCESSED BEFORE REPATRIATION DETERMINATION WAS MADE. FROM AGGREGATE RESULTS OF THESE INTERVIEWS, HKG FEELS REASONABLY CONFIDENT THAT THOSE RETURNED HAVE NOT BEEN DEALT WITH HARSHLY. ASSISTANT POLAD SAID IT WAS SIGNIFICANT THAT PRACTICALLY NONE OF THOSE FACING REPATRIATION SHOWED ANY REAL FEAR ABOUT BEING RETURNED TO PRC. INTERVIEW RESULTS SHOWED CONCLUSIVELY THAT ESCAPEES UNIFORMLY MUCH PREFER HAVING BEEN CAUGHT AND RETURNED TO PRC BY HK POLICE THAN HAVING BEEN CAUGHT BY PRC PATROLS EN ROUTE TO HK. THIS IS LARGELY BECAUSE ESCAPEES REGARD DANGER OF PHYSICAL HARM STEMS FROM INTERCEPTION BY PRC MILITIA PATROLS ALONG ESCAPE ROUTES AND NOT FROM TREATMENT IN PRC AFTER REPATRIATION. COMPILED SHOW ALMOST 95 PERCENT OF THOSE RETURNED WERE UNDER 25 YEARS OF AGE AND THAT MAIN MOTIVATION OF THESE ILLEGALS SEEKING ESCAPE TO HK REMAINS THE DESIRE FOR ECONOMIC BETTERMENT. A GREAT MANY HAVE MADE PREVIOUS UNSUCCESSFUL ATTEMPTS TO ENTER HONG KONG WITH SOME ATTEMPTS AS RECENT AS 1973-74.

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 HONG K 03839 02 OF 02 110401Z

16 R  
ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /011 W  
----- 086281

R 110015Z APR 75  
FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4541  
INFO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI  
USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 HONG KONG 3839

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

6. DRACE-FRANCIS SAID ILLEGAL FLOW TREND NOW WAS DEFINITELY DOWNWARDS, WITH STEADY DECREASE EACH MONTH FROM DECEMBER (WHEN ABOUT 300 APPREHENDED ILLEGALS WERE REPATRIATED ) TO MARCH (WHEN ONLY 46 WERE RETURNED). EVEN WITH DUE ALLOWANCE FOR PAST MONTHS BEING COLD SEASON WHEN ESCAPE ATTEMPTS TRADITIONALLY WERE FEWEST, FOR FACT THAT UNKNOWN NUMBER OF ILLEGALS HAD SUCCESSFULLY MADE WAY INTO HK AND BECOME SUBMERGED IN COMMUNITY AND FOR RELATIVELY BRIEF PERIOD REPATRIATION POLICY HAS BEEN IN EFFECT, THE REDUCTION IS STILL SIGNIFICANT. ASSISTANT POLAD SAID FULL REASONS FOR DECLINE NOT YET CLEAR BUT MAIN OPERATIVE FACTORS APPEAR TO BE FOLLOWING: (A) WORD HAS SPREAD IN PRC ABOUT STRICT HKG REPATRIATION POLICY; (B) PRC PATROLS HAVE BEEN INCREASED AND ESCAPE ROUTES ARE INCREASINGLY MORE HAZARDOUS; (C) FACT THAT ECONOMIC CONDITIONS IN HK ARE BAD AND THAT UNEMPLOYMENT HAS RISEN IS KNOWN IN PRC. AS RESULT, ESCAPEE MOTIVATION HAS BEEN UNDERCUT AND DETERRENT EFFECT OF HKG REPATRIATION POLICY HAS TAKEN HOLD.

COMMENT:

7. INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO CONGEN RE PRC ATTITUDES TOWARDS AND TREATMENT OF ILLEGALS GENERALLY COINCIDES WITH ABOVE HKG ASSESSMENTS. WITH SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO DAILY TELEGRAPH STORY, WE ALSO MUCH DOUBT THAT THE CANTON INCIDENT IN QUESTION DEALT SPECIFICALLY WITH RETURNEES. WE NOTE THAT SCENE DESCRIBED IN STORY HAS STRIKING SIMILARITIES TO INCIDENT OF JANUARY 3 WIT-CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 HONG K 03839 02 OF 02 110401Z

NESSSED BY TWO USLO STAFF MEMBERS AND OTHER EUROPEANS AS REPORTED IN PEKING'S 0019 CONCERNING CANTON CRACKDOWN ON LAWBREAKERS AND WEARING OF PLACARDS. LAWBREAKERS IN TMAT INCIDENT WERE VARIOUSLY IDENTIFIED AS "KILLERS AND ROBBERS" AND AS "PICKPOCKETS AND THIEVES" BUT NO MENTION WAS MADE OF THEM BEING ESCAPEES LET ALONE RETURNEES.

8. VARIOUS INTELLIGENCE REPORTS INDICATE THAT ESCAPING TO HK HAS BEEN DENOUNCED IN KWANGTUNG, WITH THIS CITED ON SOME LOCAL "FOUR ANTI" POSTERS AS A CRIME. THUS, IT IS CLEAR THAT AUTHORITIES HAVE SOUGHT TO DISCOURAGE AND THWART SUCH ESCAPE ATTEMPTS. HOWEVER, IT IS EQUALLY CLEAR THAT IN DEALING WITH VARIOUS SOCIAL PROBLEMS, AUTHORITIES IN RECENT YEARS HAVE BEEN RELUCTANT TO USE FORCE OR VIOLENCE. JUDGING FROM RELATIVELY MILD DISCIPLINARY MEASURES REGIME HAS IMPOSED UPON UNSUCCESSFUL ESCAPEES IN PAST, WE WOULD ALSO DOUBT THAT PRC HAS DRASTICALLY ALTERED SCALE OF PUNISHMENT RECENTLY. CONCEIVABLY IF RETURNEE WAS ALSO A SERIOUS GAW BREAKER (I.E. ROBER OR THIEF) HARSH PUNISHMENT MIGHT BE APPLIED NOT FOR ILLEGAL MIGRATION BUT FOR TRYING TO ESCAPE PUNISHMENT FOR THE MORE SERIOUS CRIME.

9. RE DEPARTMENT RESPONSE TO CONCERNS ABOUT POSSIBILITY OF ILLEGALS GOING TO TAIWAN AND RE PRC TREATMENT OF RETURNEES, WE SUGGEST FOLLOWING POINTS COULD BE USEFULLY STRESSED:

(A) HKG REPATRIATION POLICY HAS NOT BEEN ONE OF BLANKET ENFORCEMENT. INSTEAD HKG HAS ADMINISTERED POLICY ON CASE BY CASE BASIS, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT HUMANITARIAN, HEALTH AND OTHER CONCERNS. UNDER THIS PRINCIPLE A NUMBER OF ILLEGALS HAVE BEEN PERMITTED TO STAY IN HK, AS NUMBER OF VOLUNATRY AGENCIES AND PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS CAN ATTEST. (FYI ONLY - DRACE-FRANCIS SAID ABOUT 7; PERSONS WHO ARRIVED ILLEGALLY INTO HK FROM PRC AFTER DECEMBER 1 HAVE RECENTLY APPLIED FOR VARIOUS HKG DOCUMENTATION, HAVING BEEN PERMITTED TO STAY. THIS NUMBER INCLUDES SOME APPREHENDED ON ENTRY BY POLICE AND SOME WHO WERE NOT.

(B) IN INTERVIEWS OF MORE THAN 500 RETUNREES THERE HAVE BEEN VERY FEW INDICATIONS SHOWN OF REAL FEAR OR TRAUMA ABOUT BEING REPATRIATED TO PRC. THIS INDICATES THAT ALTHOUGH RETURNEES EXPECT SUBSEQUENT SESSIONS INVOLVING CRITICISM AND SOCIAL HUMILIATION, THEY DO NOT FEEL TME THREAT OF HARSH CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 HONG K 03839 02 OF 02 110401Z

PHYSICAL PUNISHMENT OR LONG PRISON TERMS.

(C) DURING SAME INTERVIEWS, NOT ONE OF MORE THAN 500 PROCESSED AND RETURNED TO PRC INDICATED DESIRE TO GO TO TAIWAN. (INTERESTINGLY, NONE OF THOSE PERMITTED TO STAY HAVE INDICATED DESIRE TO GO TO TAIWAN EITHER.) THIS IS NOT PARTICULARLY SURPRISING SINCE GREAT MAJORITY OF ILLEGALS ARE YOUNG PEOPLE UNDER 25 YEARS OF AGE WHOSE MOTIVATION FOR COMING TO HK ARE ECONOMIC. MOST ARE CANTONESE AND THEIR KINSHIP TIES OUTSIDE THE PRC ARE MOSTLY IN HK. HAVING LIVED ENTIRE LIVES IN PRC WITH PERCEPTIONS AND IDEAS ABOUT TAIWAN AND ITS ECONOMY FORMED SOLELY IN PRC ENVIRONMENT AND HAVING NO KINSHIP OR REGIONAL TIES WITH TAIWAN, THERE UNDERSTANDABLY WOULD BE ALMOST NO INCLINATION FOR THEIR SEEKING TO GO TO THAT ISLAND.

10. US CONGENOFF HAS ASCERTAINED FROM ASSISTANT POLAD THAT HKG WOULD HAVE NO OBJECTIONS TO DEPARTMENT USING ABOVE PARAGRAPH 9 POINTS IN PUBLIC RESPONSES AS LONG AS HKG IS NOT DIRECTLY CITED AS SOURCE OF STATISTICS.

11. RE MODIFICATION OF LANGUAGE OF DEPARTMENT RESPONSE TO QUERIES CITED IN PARA 5 OF REFTTEL, CONGEN CONCURS WITH VERSION SUGGESTED BY EMBASSY TAIPEI IN PARA 8 OF TAIPEI'S 1711.  
CROSS

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** REPATRIATION, HUMAN RIGHTS, DETENTION, POLICIES, IMMIGRANTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 11 APR 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** KelleyW0  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975HONGK03839  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750126-0191  
**From:** HONG KONG  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19750459/aaaacclz.tel  
**Line Count:** 274  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION EA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** STADIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 5  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** STADIS  
**Reference:** 75 STATE 70714  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** KelleyW0  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 10 NOV 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <23 JUN 2003 by ShawDG>; WITHDRAWN <06 NOV 2003 by WorrelSW, 3.4.X6>; RELEASED <10 NOV 2003 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <10 NOV 2003 by KelleyW0>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS FROM THE PRC  
**TAGS:** SREF, HK, CH, TW  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006